(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. At present, the refining capacity is 148.97 MMTPA. The demand of petroleum products for the terminal year (2011-12) of Eleventh Five Year Plan is estimated to be 131.8 million metric tonnes (MMT).

Appointment of Chairmen and Functional Director of oil PSUs

823. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of occasions Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)'s recommended panel for appointment of chairmen and functional directors for public sector oil companies have been rejected for reasons other than vigilance/corruption;

(b) the number of cases Search Committees have been constituted for selection of functional directors and Chairmen for ONGC, IOC, HPCL and BPCL; and

(c) whether crucial importance of energy security of the country was taken into consideration for selection of functional directors and chairmen of the above mentioned PSUs before February, 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Information is being collected from the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and will be furnished.

(b) The Government has directed that a Search-cum-Selection Committee be constituted for selectiion of Chairman and Manging Director of Oil and Natural gas Corporation (ONGC).

(c) Yes, Sir.

Discovery of gas in the Krishna-Godavari offshore by ONGC

†824. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has found an ample quantum of natural gas offshore of the Krishna-Godavari delta;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the total quantum of gas assessed; and

(c) by when the commercial distribution of gas would be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Exploratory efforts by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) have led to the discovery of gas in the ultra-deep water of KG-DWN-98/2 block in Krishna-Godavari offshore.

(b) The quantum of gas has not been ascertained so far.

(c) Commercial production depends on commerciality of discoveries and their subsequent development plan.

Recommendations of Parliamentary Standing Committee on duty structure

825. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Parliamentary Standing Committee had recommended for revision of duty structure for petroleum products; and

(b) if so, the details of Government's response to these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The Standing Committee on Petroleum & Natural Gas in its Tenth Report on 'Pricing of Petroleum Products' for the year 2005-06 has observed that the share of taxes and duties in the retail selling prices of commonly used fuels including auto fuels are too high and consequently need to be rationalised. The Committee has also recommended that *advalorem* component in the existing mix should be replaced by a single specific component further the Committee recommended that custom duty on products, specially petrol and diesel be brought down to 5% from 10%.

As per recommendations of Rangarajan Committee, the pricing of petrol and diesel was changed from import parity to trade parity basis (weighted average of import and export parity price in the ratio of 80:20). The custom duty on petrol and diesel were reduced to 7.5% from 10% with effect from 16.6.2006, reducing the protection of the refineries further.